

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 10051 261146Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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P 261120Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7517

S E C R E T LONDON 10051

NODIS

FOR SECRETARIES VANCE AND BROWN FROM AMBASSADOR BREWSTER

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MMOL CH UK

SUBJECT: ARMS SALES TO CHINA

1. I MET WITH MULLEY FRIDAY (JUNE 23) TO SEE WHERE  
HMG WAS ON ARMS SALES TO CHINA AND WHETHER THEY EXPECTED  
CLARIFICATION OF OUR POLICY ON ALLIED ARMS SALES TO PRC.

2. MULLEY INDICATED THAT HMG WOULD PROCEED ON A CASE BY  
CASE BASIS AND THEREFORE WOULD NOT SEEK ANY COMPREHENSIVE  
POLICY DETERMINATION. AT THE MOMENT THE ONLY LIVE  
TRANSACTION UNDER CONSIDERATION IS SUPPLY OF ROLLS ROYCE  
MARINE ENGINES FOR SMALL NAVAL CRAFT. IF THIS RIPENS  
INTO FIRM REQUEST FCO WOULD TAKE UP THE MATTER WITH US.  
I GATHER THIS MIGHT BE QUITE SOON, SO IT WOULD HELP FOR  
US TO HAVE A POSITION.

3. ON ADDITIONAL TRANSACTIONS THERE HAVE BEEN NO FORMAL  
REQUESTS BUT INCREASING SIGNS OF CHINESE INTEREST. WHILE  
CHINESE MIGHT LIKE A FEW HARRIERS MORE FOR SYMBOLIC  
AND TECHNOLOGICAL VALUE THAN FOR OPERATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE,  
HMG IS NOT LIKELY TO ENCOURAGE THIS AS NEXT STEP.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LONDON 10051 261146Z

4. MOST LIKELY NEXT STEP WOULD BE SURFACE TO AIR AND  
ANTI-TANK WEAPONS OF CLEARLY DEFENSIVE NATURE. WHILE  
MULLEY HIMSELF WOULD BE WELL DISPOSED TO SUCH SALES,  
THERE HAVE BEEN NO REQUESTS FROM CHINESE.

5. I THINK WE OUGHT TO THINK THROUGH OUR POSITION ON  
ALL OF THESE SO THAT BRITISH WILL NOT HAVE TO WAIT TOO

LONG FOR A CLEAR RESPONSE.

6. WILL ADVISE FURTHER IF FORMAL REQUEST IS BEING MADE  
BY FCO.

BREWSTER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, ARMS, MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MILITARY SALES, CAT-B  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978LONDON10051  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**TAGS:** MMOL, MASS, CH, UK, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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